

Mr. DEFAZIO. The premise of taxpayer support for the auto companies was twofold—preserve our productive capacity and maximize job retention.

Well, the plan has kind of gone off track here. The resolution of Chrysler, losing tens of thousands of jobs through the unnecessary closure of dealerships, and now Chrysler is going to close their most productive, modern engine plant in the world and build one in Mexico? How is that in the taxpayers' interest?

The leadership of the financier from Wall Street, Mr. Rattner, needs to be brought under control here. GM's now on deck. The Obama administration has to reconsider their approach. Don't endorse the closure of thousands of dealerships. Don't support the export of our productive capacity.

It is rumored that GM wants to manufacture their cars in China. Preserving a corporate shell while losing productive manufacturing capacity and tens of thousands of jobs is not in the taxpayer interest and should not receive the endorsement of the Obama administration nor this Congress.

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM COOKSEY

(Mr. FLEMING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of the special veterans in my district. William Cooksey is a World War II veteran who just celebrated his 100th birthday.

Later this month we will welcome Mr. Cooksey to Washington as part of an Honor Air Trip, which flies World War II veterans to our Nation's capital free of charge to visit the World War II Memorial and Arlington Cemetery.

Mr. Cooksey began his service to our country as a member of an infantry unit. He then moved to the Air Corps and served as a chaplain's assistant from October 1943 to December 1945. When he left the military, he did so having received four Bronze Stars, a Purple Heart, the World War I Victory Medal and a Good Conduct Medal. At 100 years old, Mr. Cooksey still serves as the senior choir director at his church.

On behalf of this Congress, I thank Mr. Cooksey for his dedicated service. May God continue to bless this special man and all of our veterans who so bravely and selflessly served our country.

INTRODUCTION OF RURAL CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION EXPANSION ACT

(Mr. WILSON of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, last week I introduced the Rural Career and Technical Education Expansion Act, a bill that would provide student loan forgiveness to career and technical teachers at rural high schools.

Just last month I visited Jefferson County Vocational School where several teachers would be able to qualify for loan forgiveness. My hope is that more career and tech teachers will choose to stay in rural areas with the help of my legislation.

More and more students in regions like mine are pursuing a technical education. My legislation would help provide these students with the best and the brightest vocational educators. When the bill becomes law, eligible vocational teachers could receive up to \$17,500 in student loan forgiveness.

I urge all my colleagues to support the benefits these teachers deserve.

SMALL BUSINESSES ARE THE HEART AND SOUL OF OUR ECONOMY

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, small businesses are the heart and soul of the American economy. When small businesses are in trouble, our economy is in trouble. When taxes are raised on small businesses and on American families, you reduce job creation, and you burden an already troubled economy.

So what is next on the Democrat agenda? A massive new national energy tax. This is not a recipe for economic growth. This will hurt small businesses and job creation. It raises the price of doing business. It raises the prices of consumer goods and home utility costs. It puts America and the small businesses that create the majority of our jobs at a disadvantage in the global economy.

As we recognize the 46th annual National Small Business Week, we should be spending our time developing policies that promote growth, not burden it. We should be fighting to give tax relief to the American people and these small businesses that employ them.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th and the global war on terrorism.

REGARDING AMERICAN CLEAN ENERGY AND SECURITY ACT OF 2009

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, this week the Committee on Energy and Commerce is poised to pass landmark energy and climate legislation. Over two Congresses, our committee has heard from over 300 expert witnesses who have made it clear that we need swift action to rebuild our economy and address climate change.

America is ready, and the world is watching. We must transition to a clean energy economy so that we can create jobs here in America, achieve

energy independence, and protect our planet for future generations. We have before us a powerful, thorough and effective bill. It includes a nationwide renewable electricity standard to ensure consumers get more of their electricity from wind, solar and biomass energy. It contains critical investments in energy efficiency, and it requires immediate significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions that are harming our planet.

We must enact comprehensive climate legislation, and we must enact it now. We can't sit idly by and allow other nations to lead the way to a clean energy future. I think America can and must do better.

I hope others will join me in seizing this opportunity to pass the American Clean Energy and Security Act to transition our country to a clean energy economy, and protect our planet for our children and our grandchildren.

STAND WITH THE PEOPLE OF CUBA AND AGAINST THE CASTRO REGIME

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, today is Cuba Solidarity Day, marking the anniversary of Cuba's independence from Spain. It has now become a day when people across the world stand with the people of Cuba who are waiting for their day of freedom from 50 years of brutal communist repression.

Last month President Obama reversed the course of American policy towards Cuba, one of only four state sponsors of terrorism. America is a beacon of hope, and we should resist funding Castro's regime or turning a blind eye to their atrocities against the Cuban people.

Those wanting to increase trade with Cuba should be reminded that all money flows through Cuba's state-owned monopoly, and they don't pay their bills. Cuba has defaulted on more than \$30 billion of its obligations.

Easing sanctions on Cuba does not make economic or humanitarian sense. It only lines the pockets of the Castro brothers who want to hold onto their power by suppressing their people.

Today I am introducing a resolution to restore the sanctions on Cuba. The Cuban people deserve our support and continued condemnation of the Castro regime.

I encourage all my colleagues to honor Cuba Solidarity Day and stand with the Cuban people by cosponsoring my resolution.

THE ACCELERATED PACE OF GLOBAL WARMING

(Mr. MORAN of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, the Flat Earth Party is, once again, in a state of denial.